

FlamenKo Festival Overview

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flamenco news

Peña Flamenca de Londres • Autumn 2014 • £3



¡FlamenKo Festival!



Rosamaria Kostic Cisneros and Marcos absorb some cobbled-street atmosphere

A week-long celebration of Roma culture from India to Europe, expressed through flamenco, takes place in Coventry from November 3-7, organised at the University.

¡FlamenKo Festival! is a unique concept including a historical and educational element that is open to the public and free. Art, music, dance, and a strong sense of community and belonging are at the core of the Roma culture, say the organisers.

"¡FlamenKo Festival! is being created in this spirit and honouring this element of the Roma community."

The event is supported by Coventry University's School of Art and Dance, C-DaRE, Centre for Peace, Trust and Reconciliation, and Culturae Mundi, and features performances, lectures, film screenings, workshops and exhibitions with participation across all subject groups of the School of Art and Dance.

It is co-ordinated and curated by Andrew Beck and directed by Marcos - a Senior Lecturer in

Broadcast Journalism, flamenco guitarist, BBC presenter and author of *Flamenco Legend, in search of Camarón de la Isla* - and Rosamaria Kostic Cisneros, Senior Research Assistant at C-DaRE Research Centre and flamenco dancer, Roma Scholar and dance and flamenco historian.

Students from CSAD will perform and share work created exclusively for the Festival at a gala performance on Monday, November 3. Other artists from the West Midlands will also be performing, and there will be free events throughout the week.

At the gala Rosamaria Kostic Cisneros will dance to original compositions by flamenco guitarist David Shepherd, accompanied by Marcos on flamenco guitar and tabla player Juggy Rijal.

Students and other artists from the West Midlands have spent six months researching Roma History and flamenco and have created contemporary-flamenco dance pieces. This work will be showcased on Monday and again on the Friday. continued >>

¡FlamenKo Festival!

>>> Birmingham-based flamenco dancer Ana Garcia, who recently founded her production company Flamenco Edition, will be sharing her oral history later in the week. Her students will perform and a short film premiered.

Screenings of five Landmark films which include elements of flamenco or the Roma community and other classics from the 1930's Spanish Cinema, will be screened daily.

Free guitar and dance Masterclasses will be held on Thursday.

Local Roma families have been invited to perform and share their stories, and will also be cooking traditional Roma food.

The academic part of the event will include research presentations by Michaelina Jakala, Rosamaria Cisneros, Marcos and other

researchers from the Centre for Trust, Peace and Reconciliation. Topics will be varied and will have a gender, Roma, flamenco history and vulnerable groups research focus.

The Coventry Conversation Series will include guest speakers from the Roma and Traveller community and will bring their life histories and professional trajectories to the forefront.

Flamenco dressmaker Adela Olmos will feature in the festival and a documentary on her life and work premieres on the Wednesday afternoon. The week ends with the opening of an exhibition of flamenco posters including *El Gazpacho*, dresses, memorabilia and flamenco iconography curated by the Coventry artist Frieda van de Poll

Rosamaria Kostic Cisneros